

The Pocahontas Times.

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Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, February 18, 1915

\$1.00 A Year

THE CHARLESTON LETTER.

By J. W. Wier

Charleston, February 15.—Much legislation has been ground from the legislative mill since January 13, but little of actual importance has had the stamp of legislative approval. During last week the Senate passed the Public Service Commission bill, which might be more appropriately called the Political Service Commission bill. It provides for three members of the same political party, with power of the governor to remove almost at will. Awaiting the governor's signature is a weights and measures bill, modelled after the federal law. Many educational bills completed the legislative journey during the week. County salary law was up in the senate. Among the many amendments is one to make the law effective at the expiration of the present terms of office. The salary of the sheriff of Pocahontas County was increased to \$3,000. The salaries for the county and circuit clerks were left at \$1800 and \$1500.

There remains to be acted upon by both houses the water power bill, workman's compensation act, the public health bill, the redistricting bill, the tax raising and appropriating bills, with only eleven working days left.

New jobs for office seekers are being created every few days, and now there is a veritable swarm of clerks here. Only one bill to abolish an office—that of hotel inspector—has been introduced, and that by your correspondent. The bill is peacefully slumbering in a committee.

To raise more revenue with which to liquidate the present indebtedness of the State and to care for the new offices which are being created, the governor in a special message has recommended an income tax on corporations and a land tax on all holdings in excess of five thousand acres.

When the house passed the child labor bill last week, it was supported by Delegate Yeager.

Although the education committee of the house rejected Mr Yeager's bill, providing for 20 school days in each month exclusive of holidays, the house took up the bill after Mr Yeager had explained its object. It is a very important bill.

The bill reapportioning the house of delegates was passed.

Not a vote was cast against the bill providing for the payment of tuition fees of high school pupils by boards of education not maintaining high schools.

The bill incorporating the West Virginia Horticultural Society has been passed by the Senate.

The San Jose scale bill was passed by the house. It makes provision for the destruction of trees infested and the appraisement of the property destroyed.

The workmen's compensation bill, one of the most important of the session, was reported from the insurance committee Monday. It is house bill 374.

The fish and game bill was shot full of amendments Wednesday, one of them cutting out the resident hunter's license. The license is to be issued without cost. A license to hunt anywhere in the state is to cost three dollars.

A law establishing normal training departments in high schools and authorizing state aid thereto has passed both houses.

The bill restricting the state was passed by the senate but the house refused to take it up, and it seems probable that there will be no restricting at this session.

The Davison stock bill passed the house. It provides, among other things, for quarantining against foot and mouth disease, and is to be administered by the commissioner of agriculture.

A MODERN VERSION

Rock-a-by, baby up on the bough,
You get your milk from a certified cow!

Before your eugenic young parents were wed
They had decided how you should be fed.

Hush-a-by, baby, on the tree-top,
If grandmother trots you, you tell her to stop.

Shun the trot-horse that grandfather rides—
It will work harm to your little insides.

Mamma's scientific—she knows all the laws—
She kisses her darling through carbolic gauze.

Rock-a-by, baby, don't wiggle and squirm,
Nothing is near you that looks like a germ.

—Book of Smiles

Report of Mace school, Edray District, for the month ending February 5th 1915.—P. W. Crickard, Teacher. Percent of daily attendance 90. The following pupils were present every day: Andrew Beale, Johnnie Beale, Forrest Mace, Ona Louk, and Delsie Louk; the following missed two days or less: Bryan Louk, John Louk, Chester Mace and Edgar Doyle.

THE OLDEST POSTMASTER

By Andrew Price in the Postmaster Everywhere.

We constantly see claims advanced as to the oldest and youngest postmaster and other claims of notoriety. I was in the low lands not long since and I heard of the claim of a postmaster who had been appointed by President Grant. He allowed he was certainly the oldest postmaster in point of service in West Virginia, if not in the whole world. But to these claims we had to say that he was a mere youngster to one that we have in Pocahontas county, West Virginia, who was appointed by President Pierce, in 1856, and who has recently been reappointed for another term of four years.

The postmaster for whom we advance the claim is George P. Moore, of Edray, West Virginia. His term of service has suffered one break. He was deprived of the office for a year or two during President Cleveland's first term, but with the exception of this short hiatus, his service has been continuous.

I wrote him to send me his first commission and he did so and on the faded paper, I read as follows:

E PLURIBUS UNUM
James Campbell, Postmaster General of the United States of America, to all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Whereas, On the 5th day of August, 1856, George P. Moore was appointed postmaster at Edray in the county of Pocahontas, State of Virginia; and whereas he did on the 5th day of August, 1856, execute a bond, and has taken the oath of office as required by law.

Now Know Ye, That, confiding in the integrity, ability and punctuality of the said George P. Moore, I do commission him a postmaster, authorized to execute the duties of that office at Edray aforesaid, according to the laws of the United States, and the regulations of the postoffice department; To hold the said office of postmaster with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments to the same belonging during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the postoffice department at Washington City, the tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-first.

JAMES CAMPBELL.

With a carefully executed rubric below his name.

I was struck with the use of the word "punctuality" in the old commission, and that it seems to be dropped in making out the commission of the present day and time. Though nothing is more important in the postal business than to be exact and observant in point of time.

When they secured a postoffice at Edray they cast about for a suitable name, and an old lady who was a close Bible reader suggested that they take the biblical name of Edrei, which means a fortress. In Joshua it is stated that Edrei is one of the fenced cities, and that may have had something to do with it, for there was a fenced clearing at Edray at a very early date.

This little town nestles in the hollow of the hills at the foot of the great Red Lick Mountain which rears its immense feet covered top some five thousand feet in the air. Some twenty miles away is the uttermost fountain—the head—of the Ohio river. It is a rich blue grass section and so far as known there has never been a poor person living in the village.

If you look at the map, you will see that Pocahontas county is the place where the waters head. It is the county of the highest elevation of any county in the eastern part of the United States. The following rivers have their source here. The Ohio, Potomac, James, Gauley, Elk, Greenbrier, and Cheat. The county is traversed by a railroad its whole length and the traveler traverses eighty-one miles from the time that he enters the county until he leaves it. And the county is broad in proportion. It is largely plateau land and is in the blue grass region of West Virginia. There is not an acre in the county in which the blue grass which is indigenous will not grow. It requires no cultivation. The land is cleared and the sun let in and a thick carpet of grass comes naturally. In the better fields a crop of hay can be cut the first year if the stock are kept out. Many hay fields have never known the touch of the plow. Blue grass is not strictly blue but it is of such a rich green color, that under certain conditions the chiascuro robes the landscape in azure hue.

We call Pocahontas county the

"Pearl of the Alleghenies," and she well deserves the name.

The county is high enough to noticeably affect the atmosphere and persons coming here from the lowlands experience the exhilaration of height, which bears a distance resemblance to the exhilaration of high balls, but we know that they are not drunk neither are they fey, but they are closer to Heaven than they have ever been before, or may be again, and in a new and intoxicating air. Some of us have established a contour line around this county at the elevation of 2000 feet above the sea level and below this point we do not venture from the 23rd day of April to the 23rd day of October each year, during which period the heat predominates over the cold.

The population native to the county are pure Ulster Scotch-Irish descent and we have kept the rugged virtues of our ancestors. We live in the very heart of the country of which George Washington spoke when he uttered those famous words in the blackest hour of the American Revolution when the leaders were taking counsel as to submission to England: "Give me but a banner, and let me place it upon the mountains of West Augusta, and I will rally around men, who will lift my bleeding country from the dust and set her free."

We have no better example of the possibilities of the breed than the postmaster at Edray. He is a great grandson of Moses Moore, a pioneer who settled here in 1760. This was the summer home of the Ohio Indians and they fought longer to retain their hunting and fishing ground than for any of their other possessions. He was captured by the Indians and carried with the other prisoners to Chillicothe, in the Ohio country. The other prisoners were required to run the gannet and were hacked to death by squaws and children. Moses Moore seized a long handled frying pan from the hand of the first squaw in the line and broke up the party. The Indian warriors preserved his life and he made his escape.

Moses Moore's son Robert was one of the first settlers of the Edray neighborhood about one hundred and twenty-five years ago. Bishop Asbury who rode a circuit from Maine to Georgia about the revolutionary times and established the Methodist church forever in these mountains, speaks of the hospitality of the people of this place. Robert Moore's son Robert continued at the home place and one of his sons is the subject of this sketch, George P. Moore, the present postmaster, who is a man to be reckoned with in the affairs of the church, of finance, and of politics in West Virginia.

In his life he has played many parts. What I admire most in him is his stern and unbending morality and the influence for good that he has exercised for so these many years. There was a time when we could not see the importance of the precision, but as we get older and see young men drifting in the wrong direction, the stern and unyielding character of the puritan seems to us the one thing that keeps this country from whirling straight into perdition. He has been a Methodist lay preacher since the time that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. A handsome church building at Edray owes its existence to him.

He has always been a hard worker, and could turn his hand to any mechanical work. He has counseled the neighbors, prepared their papers, married the young, christened the babes, fashioned the coffins, and preached the funeral service. He has been good to the poor and has prospered exceedingly until he is one of the rich men of this part of the state. He has been president of a big county bank for the past fifteen years, and has served on the county court and been coroner of the county.

He has taken a broad and comprehensive view of public questions but has always managed to find enough good in the tenets of the Republican party to give it his support, and we poor Democrats have found him standing like a stone wall in the way of our political successes. In this great county, in that precinct of Edray with men coming out and voting the way they shot, we have had many a Waterloo, but through it all Mr. Moore has always commanded our admiration and respect, and we have found him fair. He has spoken favorably of our present president, who would certainly appreciate it, if he knew the man.

In some communities Mr. Moore would be considered an old man. But Victor Murchok, who came here to make a speech some years

BUSTER PASSES AWAY

Buster, a pet dog of Miss Mary Cunningham, of Circleville, departed this life, Jan. 30, 1915, age 2 years, 6 months and 7 days. He was cheerful and kind and loved by all who knew him. He leaves to mourn his loss, Miss Mary, a host of friends, but no relatives.

His sorrows and woes hath led His troubles are no more, We all shall meet dear Buster Upon the other shore.

A Friend.
—From the Pendleton Times
Buster went out with the tide, Deeply we his loss deplore, His bark has crossed the ocean wide, To the dark Plutonian shore.

UP TO THE COURT

"Uncle Joe Cannon was asked the other day what he thought of the outlook for the republican party in 1916, and he answered with a story.

"A black man was arrested for horse stealing while I was prosecuting attorney in Vermillion county," he said, "and was placed on trial after being duly indicted. When his day in court came he was taken before the judge and I solemnly read the charge in the indictment to him.

"Are you guilty of not," I asked.

"The black man rolled unessily in his chair. 'Well, boss,' he finally said 'ain't dat de berry thing we're about to try?'"

ONOTO

We are having ground hog weather sure enough.

Stock is looking well in this part considering the long winter we have had; feed is getting very scarce.

There is quite a lot of sickness in this section.

Geo. Auldridge was at the county seat on business Monday.

Crawford Meeks is down with pneumonia. Dr. J. W. Price is waiting on him.

C. C. Baxter has installed a feed mill to his gasoline engine and has been doing a lot of grinding for the farmers of this vicinity.

Neal Baxter and wife and Miss May VanKeenan, of West Marlinton, were here Sunday to see Rev. C. B. VanKeenan, who has been on the sick list.

The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd VanKeenan at Woodrow on February 5th and left a fine pair of twin boys.

Frank Baxter and wife of Edray were visiting at A. C. Barlow's, Sunday.

Miss Beatrice Sharp has been unable to attend school for some time on account of her health.

W. G. Cochran is installing a lime grinder on his farm. This is something that has long been needed by the farmers in this neighborhood. This will enable them to buy lime at a low price and save the use of so much fertilizer.

Rev. J. M. Walker preached a fine sermon at Hamlin Chapel Sunday evening.

Our merchant, C. V. Hanlin, has a 15 days reduction sale going on.

Henry Moore is building a fine work shop.

Mrs. Lizzie McClure is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. H. Shear, at Edray.

T. D. Moore spent Sunday with home folks.

N. S. Duffield returned from Cincinnati, Tuesday.

and carried back with him a "Pocahontas History," wrote a long article of this county as being the site of the fountain of youth, and gave a long list of persons who had reached the age of ninety years or more.

Some years ago Mr. Moore suffered a partial amputation of his right hand and his power of hand and his power of handwriting being somewhat impaired he acquires the art of using a typewriter. In this he ran against the regulation requiring applicants for fourth-class postoffices to write a letter in their own handwriting. He was able to turn out a classical composition upon the typewriter, and we all with one accord pressed upon the department the necessity of making an exception in his case, for we felt that his respectability would redound to the honor and glory of the postal service.

We feel that this Mr. Moore could well quote the words of James More, the Scottish chief-tain: "In my own country I have lived like a king, and my books and my mountains, and the faith of my friends and kinsmen have sufficed for me."

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OUR SCHOOLS

Editor Times:—We presume from the article by the Huntersville Taxpayer that he just awoke from a long and troubled sleep, and found things (educationally) so far ahead of what they were when he fell into his unconscious state that he thinks knowledge has gone on a journey.

Mr. Citizen, this is the twentieth century, the greatest and grandest of all times.

We do not know when you went to school, nor who your teachers were, but we do know that teaching has never been what it is now. There never was a time when so many good men and women gave their time to the study of the child, and there has never before been a time that the child was considered human by so many.

Of course we have people who want to think in terms of the fourteenth century, and we will have for years to come, but this class is in the minority, and this old world will continue to revolve and the star of progress will continue to rise until we reach a happy medium in school work.

We think we can see some improvement over the methods of ten years ago, when the boy sat with an arithmetic before his eyes for seven out of the eight hours. The eighth hour he spent learning lists of words he has not seen since.

The child spent ten years on arithmetic and spelling lists of words, and when he finished knew no arithmetic and very little about the English language.

The schools of today are trying to teach the child—how to care for the body; how to use the mother tongue; how to express his thoughts correctly. We are trying to get the child to use his ears and eyes—to learn of his surroundings. Which is the more practical knowledge?

The child is not supposed to sit on a plank for eight or ten hours a day, and we are beginning to find out that the harm done the child by such methods is greater than the little knowledge gained in that time. The child is not a machine that we may replace a curved spine or a tubercular lung.

The child should be kept busy while in the school room, and drawing is not out of the way in a poorly supplied school room. Drawing affords the child greater interest than lists of meaningless words or so much number work.

Mr. Citizen, the teacher is not the spindle upon which the school system turns. He is only one of the cogs in this great wheel. You are a cog and it is not your duty to try to smash another cog because of a rusty spot on the wheel. Oil up. Steam ahead. The teachers of the District are doing their best, all things considered.

—A Teacher of Huntersville District.

Editor Times:—

It would seem that you backwoodsman ought to be well posted on the habits of your wild animals and birds, but there is abundant proof that you are not.

This is my first trip to "Poca," but I have been a reader of the Times for years and many is the blunder on this subject I have noted by both you and your readers.

In a recent article by one of your natives, written from Red Fords, Ark., he refers to "the migratory birds that summer in West Virginia and winter here." Among these he mentions the red bird and woodpecker. Through the window of the room where I am writing this, I can see the beautiful red birds enjoying baths in the snow that caps the fence posts, and on the trunk of a dead tree nearby, half a dozen woodpeckers are imitating a telegraph office. I think if they could get in touch with the "Arkansas Traveler" they would flush him the news that they do not migrate to a southern clime.

These lines are not written in a spirit of ridicule, but in the hope that those so fortunate as to live "Near to Nature's Heart," may be more observant of the habits of our brothers of the wild.

Nature Lover, of Wheeling.

POCAHONTAS HENNERY

G. W. FULLER, Proprietor
Hillsboro, W. Va.

Breeder of heavy laying strain S. C. W. Leghorns—the celebrated Cornish Edge strain.

My pen for this season surpasses anything I have ever had before. They are yearling hens mated to strong, vigorous cockerels. Fertility guaranteed to 90 per cent.

I am prepared to furnish large or small orders for eggs for hatching. Single setting \$2.00, by the hundred \$8.50. Book your order now, deliver when you want them.

G. W. FULLER

POULTRY PARAGRAPHS.

By Seventh and Eighth Grade Pupils of the Hill-boro School

Fowls should always be provided with plenty of pure water. Poultry should have green food at all times of the year.

Do not forget the fact that food flavors both the egg and the meat. Onions and fish are not apt to give either an appetizing flavor.

It is economy to feed a variety of grains so that the flock will get the required food elements without overeating on any one kind.

Poultry needs less food and requires less care where they have a good range.

Do not feed your poultry cheap food because it often contains poison.

When chickens do without grit, they have to do without teeth. Damaged grain is not fit for poultry.

Hens will lay better and keep in better physical condition if the ration includes beef scrap or ground bone.

Geese are vigorous and hearty and live on food that other fowls reject.

Feed chickens sweet and sour milk and they will lay better.

Always have grit and oyster shell where chickens can get at them at all times.

Always feed your fowls at regular hours.

Duck raising is to be recommended to farmers as a profitable source of revenue.

White Emden Geese are a very practical breed for farmers and pay well for their keeping.

In order to have your chickens healthy, have a good clean house with plenty of fresh air and sun shine.

Poultry is worth about as much as our yearly wheat crop.

If you want hens to pay for their board make them work for it. Eggs are a very valuable food because they are rich in carbohydrates and proteins.

As a rule, the hungry hen is a healthy one.

When chickens are too fat, they will not lay well.

Feed your chickens well and they will pay the board bill.

Good breeds are better than common breeds which eat as much and produce less.

The hen's greatest profit producing period is the first and second years.

Build a good chicken house and the chickens will pay for it.

When selling eggs grade them according to size and color.

West Virginia is especially well located for poultry as to climate and markets.

Poultry always resembles its quarters. Poor quarters, poor poultry; fine quarters, fine poultry. Chickens always pay well for care. Keep the nests clean. Clean poultry means a good profit.

LOST—Lost a bunch of keys with name plate attached between Arbvale and Dunmore. Finder please mail to Durbin and received reward.

NATHAN BERLEWITZ.

SAILING ON

ANNA L. PRICE.

The log-book of Christopher Columbus is said to have borne repeatedly the entry, "This day we sailed on." That is all.

A little Spanish vessel, Tossed on the mighty main,
So like a lonely sentry,
Facing the ocean beat,—
Now read the log-book's entry,
Which the pages oft repeat,—
"This day we have sailed on."

"Sailed on today," and that was all you would have looked for more; No word of baffled illia, Suggestion, fear, wadition, And the countless hindrances: Across the waters, westward,
His eye, his soul was bent,
Whose eye and soul? Columbus', Ordained of God,
To find a continent.

Praise God for that bold venture Beyond the trackless sea,
Praise God for that heroic faith,
And the birth of a new country.

Oh, it was grand, 'twas beautiful,
When he had sailed to land,
To strike the cross, to reverent kneel,
With his face upon the sand.
The great are ever simple,
The wise make good their way,
And they deem it some achievement,
To have "sailed on this day."

When answer comes from Jesus,
To prayers that we have prayed;
What is it that surprises us,
And makes our souls afraid?

Faith must be weak and trembling
And love is waxing cold,
Or dross of earth intruding
Upon the heavenly gold.

"My ears are ever open,
I hear the prayer of faith,
And while they call I answer"—
Is that not what He saith?

Then, let us rather whisper,
I do believe Thy word;
And when He sends rich blessing,
'Tis just like Thee, Oh Lord!

IN ALL THE WAYS

In which we are prepared to accommodate patrons of this Ban we are ready to serve you.

When you open a checking account with us you gain many business advantages. A checking account enables you to handle your financial affairs in a systematic manner.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Marlinton, W. Va.

State Depository
Member U. S. Federal Reserve
Fourth on Roll of Honor in State.

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We carry a complete line of Rubber Goods

Little Trained Nurse recommends our Syringes, Combs, Brushes—Everything

Buy your rubber goods at our store and you will get the kind that last. All rubber goods are not the same quality.

Don't you need a good hot water bag or fountain syringe right now. We have a big line of goods made of rubber at the fairest prices.

KEE & McNEILL
DRUGGISTS
Marlinton W. Va.
WE TAE CARE